

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

Volume XVII. No. 120.

New York, Saturday, May 1, 1852.

The News.

Many items of interest are contained in the dispatch of our Washington correspondent, under the telegraphic head. It appears that Messrs. Webster and Orin have decided upon sending an agent from this government along with the British Consul General, to Nicaragua, in order to adjust the difficulties in that region, so far as England and the United States are concerned.

The Fillmore committee for this city have arrived in Washington, and made arrangements to bring back with them Messrs. Marshall, Gentry, and other Southern whig lions. Look out for some serious proceedings in the whig camp here, on the 10th instant.

Mr. Hall, as has been previously stated, is not to go out as Minister to Russia—consequently, Francis Granger will not be re-installed as Postmaster General.

Senator Pearce concluded his speech in defence of the present administration yesterday. He made out a pretty strong case against Messrs. Gwin and Hunter, and the last democratic administration. It will now be necessary for the latter gentlemen to defend themselves, and make good their previous assertions. Mr. Hale took occasion to crack a joke at the expense of Mr. Mangum and the whig caucus, and there the matter dropped for the present.

Politics having thus been fairly introduced in connection with the Deficiency bill, it is doubtful whether the Senate will come to a final vote on the measure, before the middle of next month. In the meantime, the appropriation for additional aid to the Collins steamers is pronounced safe.

The House of Representatives voted the principal part of the day in the consideration of private bills. Messrs. Moore and Florence, both of Pennsylvania, gave notice that they should write out and print speeches in favor of the Free Farm bill. This is a most excellent way of doing business. It pushes the work along in Congress, and suits the people just as well as though the speeches were actually uttered in the House. The indications now are that this Free Farm measure will succeed in the House; but its chances in the Senate are rather precarious.

Our despatches from Baltimore aver that Officer Ridgely took the runaway slave at Columbia, Pa., in self-defence. As near as can be ascertained, the officer was surrounded by a mob of excited negroes—the fugitive resisted, and commenced biting the officer's thumb, when the latter drew his revolver and fired. It is really a lamentable affair.

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In this terrible struggle among the stock-jobbing interests of the whole State, we trust that the Court of Appeals will rise above the passions and prejudices of the day—will rise above the dirty swamps of corruption and infamy which have characterized too much of the past legislation in Albany—and give such a decision on this question as will elevate the constitution above the tricks of speculators and jobbers, and cause the fundamental law of the State to be hereafter considered the guide of every future Legislature. There can be no doubt, we think, on looking at this question with clearness and partiality, that all the difficulties and doubts on the question now before the Court of Appeals might have been easily avoided, had the parties in the Legislature adopted the simple requirements of the constitution, instead of endeavoring to dodge that constitution, and contract a debt by special pleading and special reasoning. The law for the enlargement of the canal, authorizing the issue of certificates, was a species of public debt, and such a law ought at once to have been submitted to the people, according to the requirements of the constitution; and if this had been done, the whole difficulty might have been avoided, which has now been brought about, and from which there seems to be no certain escape. But the intrigue and corruption of special interests and filthy partisans have produced a dilemma, in which the State, the Legislature, and the Court of Appeals have got entangled. We believe the contracts, embracing an amount of nearly nine millions of dollars, were procured in anticipation of the introduction of the law in the Legislature, or even previous to its first recommendation by the Governor of the State.

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The Canal Question before the Court of Appeals.

The very important question of the constitutionality of the recent canal legislation for the enlargement of that great work, now before the Court of Appeals, is beginning to create a great deal of sensitiveness, and some fluttering, in that portion of the public press of the city which is generally connected with all sorts of stock-jobbing schemes of a dirty character and mean origin. Fears are entertained by the corrupt and impure coteries in Wall street, that the Court of Appeals will decide that important question strictly according to the letter and spirit of the constitution, and without any regard to the corrupting interests by which that measure was carried through the Legislature into the impure swamp of the canal lettings and canal contracts. The Court of Appeals is at one time appealed to, in the most humiliating manner, to legalize these canal proceedings; and anon, at another time, the stock-jobbing journals in question threaten it with the dire calamities of unpopularity and extinction.

In this terrible struggle among the stock-jobbing interests of the whole State, we trust that the Court of Appeals will rise above the passions and prejudices of the day—will rise above the dirty swamps of corruption and infamy which have characterized too much of the past legislation in Albany—and give such a decision on this question as will elevate the constitution above the tricks of speculators and jobbers, and cause the fundamental law of the State to be hereafter considered the guide of every future Legislature. There can be no doubt, we think, on looking at this question with clearness and partiality, that all the difficulties and doubts on the question now before the Court of Appeals might have been easily avoided, had the parties in the Legislature adopted the simple requirements of the constitution, instead of endeavoring to dodge that constitution, and contract a debt by special pleading and special reasoning. The law for the enlargement of the canal, authorizing the issue of certificates, was a species of public debt, and such a law ought at once to have been submitted to the people, according to the requirements of the constitution; and if this had been done, the whole difficulty might have been avoided, which has now been brought about, and from which there seems to be no certain escape. But the intrigue and corruption of special interests and filthy partisans have produced a dilemma, in which the State, the Legislature, and the Court of Appeals have got entangled. We believe the contracts, embracing an amount of nearly nine millions of dollars, were procured in anticipation of the introduction of the law in the Legislature, or even previous to its first recommendation by the Governor of the State.

The Court of Appeals is placed in a trying and singular position. All the accumulated interests and corruption springing from disbursement of nine millions of dollars are concentrated, to force on that high court a compliance with their hopes and their wishes, regardless of the constitution, and regardless of the purity of the crime. All the jobbing and corrupting interests of the press, and the politicians belonging to both parties, are united in this onset on the independence, the purity, and the intelligence of the court of last resort. We trust that the court

of Appeals will signally rise out of this conflict with the constitution of the State sustained, and with their own character preserved from taint and reproach.

NOVELTY IN POLITICS—THE FILLMORE PROTRACTED MEETING.

The Fillmore protracted meetings, in this city, which have been held each evening of this week, at the Chinese Rooms, have created a great deal of attention among the talking politicians of the day. These meetings are a novelty in their line. The genius which invented this new system of political tactics ought to be brought forth to the light and immortalized. Night after night, from fifty to a hundred, and sometimes a hundred and fifty, politicians, philosophers, wise men, and blockheads, have been meeting, discussing, telling their experience, collecting facts, stating probabilities, and talking about the prospects of Mr. Fillmore, ending, generally, in a new song—the silliest of the kind we ever heard, but sometimes sung with some melody. These meetings seem to be a protracted joke more than anything else. The nucleus of the gatherings has been the officers of the Custom House and Post Office—the moderator who opened the first meeting, without prayer, being the Collector of the port. Night after night, new converts and new saints have been brought up to the stand to relate their experience, and give accounts of the prospects of Mr. Fillmore; but every now and then there is an eddy or a knot in the way, and sometimes the speakers slip out their preference for Mr. Webster in the midst of the Fillmore convocation; and we have no doubt that, before the meetings close, previous to the grand demonstration, the Scott men will find their way there, and evince a great deal of Scottish propensities before all is over.

Really, these Fillmore meetings are beginning to be extremely interesting, in the talk, in the jokes, in the anecdotes, in the songs, and in the glances. No charges are made at the door, and in this respect they are much cheaper than the cheap theatres. The entertainments are rather better, and we have no doubt they will be admired every night of their performances. We would advise the "Bovary boys" by all means to visit them. They are surely better value for nothing than the pit of the Bovary theatre for a shilling.

THE DATA LATER FROM MONTEVIDEO.—We have received from El Comercio de la Plata, of Montevideo, to the 6th of March. The last number of that journal gives a long article upon the affairs of Buenos Ayres, the details of which we have already published in the New York Herald.

The government of the republic gave a splendid ball to the French body of the expedition who took a part so honorable in the affairs of the country. On the same day a reunion of persons of all countries gave a sumptuous banquet to the French officers, who are soon to return to Paris.

The trip to England, which was also presented to Colonel Du Chas, in honor of his very successful and good conduct during the long siege of Montevideo. The Colonel gave, in return, a magnificent tri-colored flag to that city.

Kossuth appears to have created a great deal of excitement among the Bostonians. They are making the most they can of him, and he is doing the same by them. Nine hundred persons are said to have sat down at the Legislative banquet in Faneuil Hall last night, and the galleries were crowded with spectators anxious to have a look at the lion.

The European advice brought by the Niagara caused intense excitement in the New Orleans cotton market. Upwards of fourteen thousand bales were sold on Thursday, at an advance of one-quarter. Some very interesting information has just been received at Boston from Barbadoes, where a ship's figure head has been cast ashore, the description of which corresponds with that of the ill-fated steamship President, of which nothing has been heard since her departure from this port, some eleven years ago.

Lake accounts from Newfoundland represent the gale as having been very disastrous to the fishing vessels in that vicinity. An immense number of weevils are known to have been wrecked, and hundreds of the poor seamen who escaped with their lives are in a very destitute condition.

A despatch from Cincinnati announces that the abolition convention adjourned on Thursday. Among the resolutions was one recommending the formation of a new party, in order to break up the whig and democratic parties. This was unnecessary, for both the old factions are breaking themselves up as fast as they can. Whites and blacks sat side by side in this convention, and enjoyed each others society wonderfully.

The mails by the Niagara arrived yesterday afternoon, from Boston. The Pacific, with four days' later news, is due to-day at this port.